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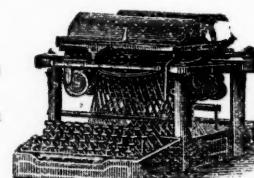
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THE AMERICAN.

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PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY DECEMBER 25, 1886.

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REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

FOR the first time in its history our paper bears Christmas-Day as its date. It would not be in accordance with the announcement with which we began THE AMERICAN, or the spirit we have endeavored to infuse into it, if we regarded the annual recurrence of this beautiful festival of Christendom with indifference. We would have little hope for the world if we did not believe in that continual influx into its life of spiritual and renewing force, of which Christmas is the especial symbol. It is the perpetual witness that with the lapse of years we and the whole race of men may grow younger in heart, more hopeful, fresher in sympathy, and more akin to the higher Powers. It is the token that the world is not a dead and forsaken world, but one privileged to renew its youth with every year of its being. And it is just this faith which makes it worth while to labor toward a truer order for human society, a higher principle in public life, and a more cordial national brotherhood,—the aims which we always have made our own.

THE President has transmitted to Congress the "convention" with regard to international copyright which has been signed in Europe recently by diplomatic representatives of most of the great powers, after a full conference upon the subject. Of course our own representative at the conference did nothing which would be construed to commit our government to the conclusions reached, as this would have been an encroachment of the executive upon the powers of Congress. But Mr. Cleveland seems to think that the arrangement for the international recognition of the rights of authors, which commends itself to the wisdom of the European nations, is worthy of favorable consideration.

There is one feature of this European agreement which entirely unfits it to be regarded as a parallel with such an international recognition of authors' rights as the United States would be making, if it made any. It is an agreement between nations which differ from each other in languages. German books can be put before a French, Spanish, Italian or English public only through the medium of translations. This involves the manufacture of the book *ab initio* inside the country into whose language it has been translated, as the facilities for composition and proof-reading in that language are seldom found elsewhere. For the same reason there is no serious reason against agreeing to such a convention with countries whose language is not spoken by any considerable portion of our people, such as Italian. But there is reason against making it with a country which could find with us a market for its books in exactly the form in which they circulate at home, and especially with the United Kingdom. Since copyright, as it now stands, confers the monopoly of production upon the author, or his agent or his consignee, the effect of the convention would be to grant to the foreign manufacturers of such books the absolute monopoly of the American market for them. No import duty could set aside this monopoly; such a duty would only increase the price to American consumers.

If we are not ready to abolish all monopoly copyright, and to throw the manufacture of books open to competition with reservation of the author's right to royalty, we must see to it that we grant no monopoly which will prohibit the manufacture of any class of books in this country.

THE Stone-Benton business has proved too much for many of the President's ex-Republican admirers. It is a sign of the state of feeling that in the Harvard debating society which enlists the class of students that take an especial interest in public questions, a majority votes that Civil Service Reform under this Adminis-

tration is a failure. Older men express their disgust in a more diplomatic way. Mr. Curtis tells the President that "the reinstatement of Mr. Benton and the refusal to reinstate Mr. Stone are in accord with no principle, and are flagrantly inconsistent with the distinct declaration of the President" in the famous letter on the subject of "offensive partisans." He adds that "the confidence of reformers is necessarily shaken, not in the President's convictions or purpose, but in his judgment. It is a step which is in every way unfortunate, for while it does not really conciliate his Democratic enemies, it does undoubtedly disturb and chill his Independent friends."

The New Haven branch of the Reform Association have adopted a report in which they show less anxiety than does Mr. Curtis to let the President down softly. After referring to his professions, they proceed:

It is greatly to be regretted that the author of such ringing phrases has in some instances permitted the exigencies of party, or the pressure brought to bear by those around him, to so far influence his action regarding official activity in political affairs as apparently to justify the inference that such activity becomes pernicious only when directed against the Democratic party. It is difficult otherwise to explain the conduct of some of the Federal office-holders in Maryland, Indiana and some other States, including Connecticut, or the fact that a Republican district attorney in Pennsylvania is removed for making speeches hostile to the Administration, without any pretence that his office was neglected, while a Democratic attorney in Missouri who was removed for political speech-making is reinstated because his arrangements were so made as not to interfere with his official duties, and this without regard to the fact that his speeches, although favorable to Democratic candidates, were intensely hostile to measures strongly supported by the Administration, including the Civil Service act. It is not easy to see how in the exercise of a just discrimination one should be taken and the other left."

This feeling will be strengthened still farther by such removals as that of Judge Rogers, the efficient and experienced Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Mr. Rogers was an official of marked ability and valuable experience. No ingenuity could make him appear an offensive partisan. His removal is a blow to the efficiency of this branch of the service; the only apparent motive was the need of his place for a Democrat.

THE Civil Service Commission propose to have established in Washington a national commission to receive and pass upon the papers obtained from candidates in the competitive examinations for office. It appears that the Commissioners are not satisfied with the marking of these papers by the local boards of examiners, who have been created under the present law. They found there is not that uniformity—to say nothing of impartiality—which is desirable; and they think that one body should pronounce upon the questions as well as furnish the questions. And as they themselves are quite unequal to a task of such laboriousness they propose to ask for assistance in this shape.

It hardly is worth while to consider the proposal seriously, for certainly the majority in the present House will vote no money to pay any such officials. They will treat the proposal as reflecting upon the Democratic office-holders, who constitute the majority of the present local boards of examiners, and they will ask, if this was not necessary under a Republican administration, why it is needed now? Nor are the leaders of the party so anxious to secure either uniformity or impartiality, as to give our commissioners their aid in organizing still further our national "forest of pencils" by centralizing the whole business of examinations at Washington. A more forcible objection is that this plan would reduce the whole business of examination to the answering of written questions, to the exclusion of any mere personal and practical tests of competency. And while such tests have

not been recognized by law, they still of necessity are continued in some parts of the public service.

THE Senate has voted (thirty to twenty-two) to repeal the Tenure of Office Act, the only restraint upon the power of removal usurped by the late Presidents of the United States. The bill for this purpose was introduced by Mr. Hoar, and although opposed ably by Mr. Edmunds and many Republican senators, it commanded enough Republican support to secure it a majority. If the value of the bill be estimated by its efficiency as a check upon the partisan treatment of the public service, it was not worth keeping on the statute-book. The changes made in President Grant's time,—and made most wisely,—have robbed it of its original effectiveness. But as a declaration that the law has a right to impose limits upon a power conceded to the President by usage and not by the Constitution, it was worth preserving. Of the passage of Mr. Hoar's bill by the House there can be no question.

The Senate has made a second mistake in refusing to consider presidential nominations to office in open session. In this case also the majority (thirty-three), was made up from both parties, all the Democrats but six voting against the proposal, while sixteen Republicans voted for it. This affectation of a secrecy which nobody respects, and which would be mischievous if they did, is as impolitic as it is incongruous with free government.

THE passage of the bill for the retirement and redemption of the trade dollar, and of the House bill for the extension of the system of free postal delivery, makes a respectable record for December work in the Senate. And in the House there has been a degree of activity which is still more praiseworthy, in view of the fact that this is the last session of a House whose successor has been elected. The Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill has been passed, and the first draft of a River and Harbor bill has been prepared on the principle of asking no more than is likely to be given. Only about \$8,000,000 is proposed by the committee for this expenditure.

On Saturday Mr. Morrison moved to take up his bill for the amendment of the Tariff, and Mr. McKinley at once called for the yeas and nays on this motion. It was defeated by the adverse vote of 128 Republicans and 26 Democrats, against that of 6 Republicans and 142 Democrats who voted for consideration. This shows that the discipline exercised in the recess on recalcitrant Democrats like Mr. Timothy Campbell had been not without effect, as the majority against consideration was reduced from 17 to 6. The Massachusetts Republicans—Messrs. Hayden and Stone, so far "weakened" as to vote for consideration, and these, with four Minnesota representatives, made up the tale of Mr. Morrison's friends among the minority. Mr. Long, Mr. Ramsey and others who were expected to vote for consideration, declined to do so on the ground that the bill was not intended to reduce the revenue, but only to reduce the protective effect of the Tariff, and that Mr. McKinley is preparing a Tariff bill which will reduce the revenue without affecting protection. In this decision we think them wise. The only motive which ought to have moved a Republican to vote for consideration, was the expectation of securing consideration for a Protectionist bill when Mr. Morrison's was defeated. But as Mr. Morrison made no offer of that, the only wise step was to repeat the refusal of last session. With this repulse, we may regard Morrisonian reform of the tariff as at an end. Mr. Morrison has probably had his last chance, as he will have no seat in the next Congress, and the district he now represents is not likely to send him back to any subsequent Congress. The Tariff has killed him politically as it did Mr. Hurd two years ago, and as it will—if it has not already killed—Mr. Carlisle. The rapid spread of manufactures under our protective policy into every region whose natural resources or special advantages of situation solicit their coming, is going to make it hard for our Free Traders to find old-fashioned rural districts to elect them. Even Southern Indiana and Illinois and many parts of Kentucky are

losing their rural character and narrow ideas of national policy. The day is not far distant when Henry Clay's state will resume her former place as the foremost champion of the protective policy.

THAT the national government cannot afford to accumulate surplus revenue in its treasury and sub-treasuries, is a self-evident fact; and whatever is to be done or left undone in the case of the Tariff, this is a problem which must be met and solved. The only solution of it which can effect an absolute adjustment of revenue to expenses, and at the same time guard against a possibility of a deficit in revenue through the sudden decline in the receipts from some form of taxation, is that which the Democratic party adopted in 1836, when the financial situation was very like the present. It is by distributing to the states according to population the surplus of revenue the nation does not need. But as Congress shows much timidity in re-enacting this plan, and as it certainly would not obtain the majority needed to carry it over the President's veto, it is necessary to look at the make-shifts which have been suggested. Mr. Cox revives Mr. Tilden's proposal to spend the surplus in fortifying our seacoast. As we have billions of dollars of property lying in our seaports, and within from two to four days' sail of great naval depots owned by powers which possess an effective fleet, we certainly are taking criminal risks in leaving our cities on the seaboard unprotected. We certainly tempt the cupidity of other nationalities in a way which is not consistent with our duty to either them or ourselves. Mr. Tilden, as a great owner of property thus exposed, realized the danger as the average citizen does not; and the day may come when New York will regret that she did not second his proposal more heartily.

Mr. Hewitt makes a very attractive suggestion that we spend our surplus in converting our four and four-and-a-half per cent. bonds into three per cents. He would pay in a lump sum to the owners of the bonds the difference between the higher and the lower interest, without altering the date of redemption. And he would offer—as in the case of the Windom bonds—to those who accepted this arrangement, the pledge that their bonds would be the last called in when the date for redemption arrived. This is a device for the reduction of the interest on a debt which is used at times in the commercial world, by mutual consent of creditor and debtor. In this case it would have the advantage of reducing the price of the bonds to par, or something like it, and thus making them more available for use as security for our national bank circulation; it would also release from investment a considerable amount of capital that would naturally seek new uses in railroad construction, etc. The uncertain elements in the proposal are the proper rate of interest, and the extent to which the present owners of the bonds would avail themselves of the offer. Mr. Hewitt suggests three per cent., but Senator Aldrich, who had introduced a bill to much the same effect, proposes to pay only two and a half. It is true that the coupon four per cents now pay only about two and a half per cent. on their market prices, when allowance is made for the sinking of the premium.

PROPOSITIONS for the reduction rather than the employment of the revenue are likely to have the public ear. A rather strong combination is forming in the House for the repeal of the internal revenue duties; and to this Mr. Randall probably will lend his support. But the proposal to reduce the import duties on raw sugar and molasses is attracting more attention and support; and it is understood that Mr. McKinley's bill will propose at least a reduction of these duties along with a reduction of the tax on native tobacco, and a repeal of that on native alcohol used in the mechanic arts. We are pleased to observe that Senators Aldrich and Frye and Mr. Millard in the House express a preference for making the reduction or repeal of these duties conditional upon the extension of our commercial facilities southward. No doubt their opinion is shared by many members of both bodies, who have not spoken as yet. It is a matter on which the Congressmen from the South-Atlantic and Gulf states should be active in the interests of their own constituents.

THE Indians' Land bill, brought forward in the Senate by Mr. Dawes, has passed the House with some amendments, which will not stand in the way of its adoption into the number of our statutes. It was in Mr. Hayes's time, and when Mr. Schurz was bungling over the rights of the Poncas, that the effort began to emancipate the Indians from the slavery of land communism. There has been no intermission of the struggle since that time, and Mr. Dawes has done the country admirable service by the untiring energy with which he has pressed the bill. But it was only of late years that the public generally and its representatives in Congress became aware of the extent to which our sanction of tribal ownership was helping to keep the Indians in savagery. Now at last the work seems about to be crowned with success, and the next Lake Mohonk Conference will be able to congratulate itself and the friends of the cause.

The law provides very wisely for a transition from collective to individual ownership. It makes it impossible for any Indian to give a valid title to his land for twenty-five years after he has received it in severalty. It thus guards his inexperience against the rapacity of the land-sharks. It assigns tracts of arable land in certain quantities to every living member of the tribe, giving the largest to heads of families, and the smallest to children still under age. And it provides that so much of the reservation as is not thus divided up, shall be sold for the benefit of the tribe, and the proceeds expended in furnishing them with seeds, agricultural implements, and other things required to give them a proper start in their new mode of life.

The change is not made compulsory. The tribe and its common ownership can be dissolved only with its own consent. But any Indian is made free to sever his connection with the common ownership by the tribe, and to accept his share in severalty. *Nemo in communione invitus detineri potest*, as the Civil Law has it. Not that there is likely to be any decided collision between the tribe and the individual in this matter. The change is recommended by men whom the Indians have learned to recognize as their unselfish friends. And it falls in with their secret desire to become *Boston sivashees*, Americans like the white people. So we hear already of some half-dozen tribes who have signified their assent to the plan.

THE Supreme Court of Ohio has decided that the Dow law for the taxation of the liquor traffic is constitutional. The state constitution forbids license; but the court holds that taxation is not license. The United States taxes the traffic, but it never has issued a license. This decision should bring to an end the agitation of the question in party politics, especially as it gives the Prohibitionists the chance to establish their principles as fast as they can make converts. Every town of more than 2000 people is left free to adopt local prohibition, if it so desire. The method employed in the South is therefore opened in Ohio also. The bill also leaves the question of Sunday traffic in intoxicants to the local governments. This makes it certain that in Cincinnati and other cities which have a great German population, beer will be sold as freely on Sunday as on any other day. And as beer cannot be bought on Saturday for Sunday use, while whiskey can, the probable result of prohibiting Sunday sales in a beer-drinking community would be to stimulate the sale of the more intoxicating drink. For this reason, it is said, the distillers, as distinguished in interest from the brewers, are all favorable to strict Sunday laws and their vigorous enforcement.

The law does not establish anything like High License. It levies \$200 a year upon dealers in spirituous liquors, and \$100 a year on those who sell malt liquors only. This does not meet the needs of the situation, and there is need of a tax so high as will constitute the licensed establishments into a body for the enforcement of the law against the unlicensed.

THE Massachusetts towns voted as usual last week on the question of license or no license. As usual both the friends and opponents of license made gains. The gains for no license policy

were the more numerous, but some of the losses were significant. In Worcester, for instance, license was defeated last year, and this year every lawful resource was employed to maintain the ground thus won. The women lined the approach to every poll; some of the clergy peddled tickets; and an all-day prayer-meeting kept the excitement at fever heat. Yet license won by 500 majority.

This vacillation is most significant as indicating just the attitude of the most intelligent classes and communities in this country. License and no license are like the Irishman's two roads; whichever you may take, you will wish you had taken the other. A year's experience of the evils of the liquor traffic frequently disposes the community to close the saloons; a year's experience of the inadequacy of Prohibition, and the social revolt it engenders, disposes the majority to vote to reopen them. This but shows that the liquor traffic presents a social problem to which we have not found the right key.

THE expectation that an organization of the Knights of Labor would be made among the colored work-people of South Carolina has caused some vigorous legislation to be set on foot. On the 16th a bill passed to third reading in the Senate of that State providing that "it shall be deemed a conspiracy, and shall be a misdemeanor" for any persons united or organized or associated "to interfere by threats, force, or in any other way," with any contract, verbal or written, between any employer and employee. It was well understood that this was intended to prevent the Knights from "interfering" in labor affairs in South Carolina, and the organizers of the order in that and neighboring States declare that this is the issue raised. The Senate first, by the casting vote of the presiding officer, postponed the bill to next session, and then one of those who had voted for postponement, having learned, as he explained, "that an organization was actually engaged in banding the negro field-hands together," moved to reconsider, which was carried, and the next vote forwarded the measure to its third reading.

THE outcome of such legislation will inevitably be a fresh collision with the labor organizations,—in whatever form these may be made,—increasing the friction that was developed during the convention at Richmond. That the South Carolina planters should not want their "field hands" stirred up is not very surprising, but when the whole case is considered, any claim from them for sympathy can hardly be honored. Colored people of South Carolina are left in ignorance, they are kept under the harrow of poverty by hard bargains and abominable laws of debtor and creditor, and after being deprived of political rights in every other district of the State, are finally cheated openly and scandalously of their choice in the one which, on account of their enormous majority of numbers, had been assigned to them without expectation of dispute. Who does all this in South Carolina, whether it is the kind-hearted and benevolent planters, or some wicked partners, we do not undertake to say, but it is unquestionably true that the South Carolina system as now applied to the colored people is one which morally effects a good deal of "interference" with the labor situation.

The agricultural laborers, says the *Charleston News and Courier*, are credulous, ignorant, and suspicious. If this be true, isn't it about time to energetically begin the work of diminishing the ignorance? With it the credulity may be lessened, and perhaps the suspicion may decrease when such outrages as that in the Smalls district cease.

THE excitement over the summons which calls Dr. McGlynn to Rome to account for his collision of views on the land question with his superior, Archbishop Corrigan, has increased rather than abated. Dr. McGlynn has a wider circle of private and public friends than any other Catholic clergyman in this country. It has been a matter of wonder that he has not been elevated to the episcopate before this. But his spirit and attitude have been such as to excite in the minds of his superiors in the hierarchy a degree of distrust that accounts for this neglect.

In a very few instances the summons to Rome has been alleged as another instance of the readiness of the Roman Catholic church authorities to interfere for the control of political affairs. But this is a mistake. If Archbishop Corrigan is right—and American Protestants generally think he is—it is his plain duty to put a stop to Dr. McGlynn's career as a public agitator against the rights of private land-ownership. There is an ethical question involved as well as a political question, and Protestants hold the Roman Catholic church as a whole responsible for the teaching of its priests on ethical questions.

IN spite of fears as to the composition of the jury, Alderman McQuade was pronounced guilty of accepting a bribe on the first ballot, and has been sentenced to pay a fine of \$5000, and to undergo seven years' imprisonment in Sing-Sing. His sentence would have been as severe as that inflicted upon Alderman Jaehne, if he had not had a better record than that receiver of stolen goods, and had not refused to go into the witness-box to swear—as Jaehne did—to his own innocence. But it is severe enough to show the political rascals of that city that Tweed's career still leads to Tweed's end, and that the fancied immunity of political mercenaries exists only in fancy. Very much of the rascality of this kind, which is found in American cities, is suggested in the first place by the cynical tone of the newspapers. It is assumed that the rulers and legislators of the city are rogues and nothing else, and they begin to think "As well have the game as the blame." And then when exposure comes, it is claimed that this justifies the assumption of rascality in the first place.

KINGS CHAPEL in Boston has been celebrating its second centenary. It was the first Episcopal congregation gathered in New England which attained permanent existence. Before its erection the governor compelled the Congregationalists to allow the Episcopalians the use of one of their churches for half of each Sunday. But about the close of its first century the chapel congregation charged its character by becoming Unitarian. There had been Unitarian preaching in New England by Dr. Mayhew and other ministers of the standing order; but as yet no avowal of Unitarian views by any organized body, when the congregation of Kings Chapel altered the English liturgy into conformity with those views, and ordained Dr. James Freeman to its ministry without the aid of any bishop. And curiously enough, the second Unitarian congregation in America was the formerly Episcopalian church of Portland in Maine. The third was the church founded in Plymouth by the Pilgrim Fathers in 1621.

The celebration evoked a wider than denominational interest. Dr. Phillips Brooks spoke in behalf of Trinity Church, which was an Episcopalian colony from King's Chapel, but which maintained its orthodox position through the period of intellectual drift which carried the mother church over to Unitarianism.

THE selection of a Republican candidate for mayor has been engaging the close attention of a number of Philadelphians during the last few weeks, and at this writing seems to be nearly if not quite settled by an agreement in favor of Mr. Edwin H. Fitler. The vital need, in the face of the new charter, with its vastly increased powers and responsibilities for the Mayor, of obtaining a man fit to execute the one and able to bear the other, has been comprehended to an encouraging degree, and the conferences, consultations and negotiations of the several volunteer committees that have now settled upon Mr. Fitler are the indications of a public interest in municipal affairs that cannot be aroused so frequently as would be desirable. But this emergency was felt to be one that could not be neglected.

It is to be remarked that the ordinary machinery of the Republican organization has not yet been put in motion to select a candidate. So far, the matter has been in the hands of these committees,—one of the Union League, one of the Pennsylvania Club, one of certain "Citizens," representing a more or less indefinite constituency,—and of the five gentlemen,—Mr. McManes, Mr.

Disston, Mr. Lane, Mr. Leeds, and Mayor Smith,—who by common consent are regarded as the most powerful local "leaders." An agreement between these contrasting parties will doubtless be conclusive when the nomination comes to be formally made.

IRELAND is having a gloomy Christmas. The song of "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men" finds but little response in her political and social condition. The struggle between the alien government and the land owners on the one side, and the national government of the League and the tenants on the other, has assumed an acute form. The Castle has proclaimed the "plan of campaign" an illegal conspiracy to deprive the landlords of their rights, without waiting for the legal decision of the case raised by the tenants. It is trying to prevent the payment of rent to the "trustees" chosen by the League, and it is threatening every person who acts as trustee with the plank-bed and "skilley" for winter quarters. To these threats the League responds with simple defiance. It is going on to receive the rents in trust as before, whether its members are imprisoned or not. It so collected the rents on Capt. Vandeleur's estate last Sunday, after the proclamation had been issued. And no one can see what will be the outcome of this struggle of the body of the people against a law and a government whose right they refuse to recognize.

The silence of Mr. Parnell throughout the struggle is accounted for by the announcement that he has been very ill, and is not thought out of danger yet. Had it been otherwise, we may presume that the course of events would have been somewhat different. He probably would have tried some form of resistance which would not have alienated the sympathy of the English Liberals from the League. As it is the "plan of campaign" has no friends in Great Britain outside Irish circles. It is repudiated by Mr. Gladstone, and *The Daily News* sustains the government in its purpose of forcing the League to abandon it. This state of feeling is ominous as to the future coöperation of the Liberals with the Irish Home Rulers.

A SURPRISING announcement, as these paragraphs are being closed, is that Lord Randolph Churchill has withdrawn from the English Cabinet, owing to a disagreement with his colleagues over war and navy estimates, and also "because he disapproved the home legislative measures of the Cabinet,"—which, it may be presumed, means those relating to Ireland. The latter assignment is no doubt the serious and real one, the other being merely nominal. But why is Lord Randolph dissatisfied about Ireland? Is it that the Government threatens to do too much, or is unwilling to do enough? Is there too great a dose of coercion or too little? It would be unsafe to predict in advance of more particulars. This particular Churchill is as "shifty" as his ancestor of two centuries ago.

THE REGULATION OF RAILROADS BY LAW.

THE change in public opinion with regard to the regulation of railroad charges by proper legislation, has been very great since the time when the Western Granges first attacked this problem. At that time it was very generally assumed that a railroad was a piece of private property, and that interference with its rates was a first step towards communism. Reputable Eastern newspapers assailed the Grangers as thieves, and predicted the suspension of railroad traffic in the Mississippi valley as the speedy result of their success. But the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States that the Western States were acting within their rights in laying restrictions on the charges made by the railroads, began to turn public feeling in another direction; and the fact that railroads in those states were not suspending operations, but were steadily increasing their mileage, had the effect of completing the conversion. The principle of railroad regulation is now accepted everywhere; hardly a railroad man even ventures on the old style of declamation about the invasion of the rights of ownership.

The most important piece of news we had in the week after the opening of Congress was that the Committees of Conference on Interstate Commerce had agreed on a compromise between the bill proposed last session by Senator Cullom of Michigan, and that advocated by Representative Reagan of Texas. The Reagan bill was one which enacted a hard and fast law to equalize freight charges, and to forbid rebates and pools, leaving the national courts to give effect to this. The Cullom bill created a commission to remove abuses by arbitration, and to report, after a careful study of the question, what additional legislation was needed to correct abuses. The principles of the two bills were so antagonistic that no compromise was possible except by the fusion of the two; and this is exactly what has been done. The new measure forbids unequal charges, rebates and pooling: but it creates the commission, and invests it with power to suspend the prohibitions mentioned, when it finds them to work hardship.

The need for a national measure grows out of the fact that the state legislation of railroad traffic is restricted by the national Constitution to contracts which are executed within state lines. Freight sent from Boston to Springfield comes under the regulation imposed by the laws of Massachusetts; but if it go on to Albany, there is no legal control over the charges made for it. And as a matter of fact, it has been found profitable to send freight across the state line, and then bring it back, so as to evade the state restriction. The consequence is that railroads which run across the state line are able to emancipate themselves from state control and to secure a monopoly of long hauls within the state, as well as beyond its bounds, by offering rebates which the state laws forbid. The evil of this was seen very clearly in Tennessee a few years ago. The State had enacted a very strict law requiring that charges be exactly proportional to distances, and that no rebates be offered. As a consequence the freight to competitive points within the state was monopolized by those railroads which ran across the state lines, and the others were throttled. It was found impossible even to wait for the repeal of the law by the legislature; a railroad commissioner was elected on the pledge that he would ignore and nullify the law.

The business of granting rebates is a very serious evil to the business of the country. It was imported into this country from England, where it prevailed especially in the hardware trade. In its application to railroad business, it operates to crush out the small operators and increase the wealth and power of the great. It is substantially a bargain to give wholesale terms to firms which give the company a great amount of business, while those which are operating in a smaller way have to pay much higher,—in some cases, twice as high. As a consequence the smaller firms are driven out of business, because the greater can afford to sell at lower rates, and the inequalities of wealth are increased. Railroad men plead that it is always fair to offer wholesale rates for large transactions. It is so in the management of private corporations, but it is not so in the management of railroads. They must be conducted with a constant reference to the interests of the community, as well as of the stockholders; and the interests of the community are not consulted by creating monopolies through the extinction of small competitors.

Equally unjust and mischievous is the lowering of charges for freight carried on long hauls or to competitive points. Of course a charge for loading and unloading freight, apart from the charge for hauling it, would be reasonable enough, and would increase somewhat the total charge for short hauls. But to that nobody objects. What is thought objectionable is the practice by which short hauls and traffic to points where there is no competition, are made to pay the costs of long hauls and the traffic to competitive points. Every car-load of farm produce sent to our city markets is made to pay a part of the cost of hauling farm produce from the far West to compete with it. Every ton of coal sold in Philadelphia, covers a part of the price of a ton sold in Providence or in Boston, and for which the same or even a lower price is asked. That the Eastern farmer has a right to the advantages which result

from his proximity to the great centres of population, and that Philadelphia has a right to the advantages which would result from its nearness to the coal-deposits, are propositions which are self-evident to everybody except a railroad man. But he flatly refuses to admit their force. He argues that as the Western farmer cannot get his wheat to market unless the Eastern farmer pays for it, the railroad is not unjust in levying upon the one class for the benefit of the other, especially as the arrangement increases the amount of railroad traffic and profits. And as the New England market for our Pennsylvania coal can exist only through Philadelphia paying a good share of the costs of transportation, it is all right to make her pay more. This practice the new law will put an end to.

The practice of pooling is probably that to which the public objects the most, and yet it is that for which the most can be said. If it were made out in any case that the pooling rates were excessive, or that they forced up prices to an unreasonable figure by unduly restricting production, we would have not a word to say in defence. But we never have seen any proof of this. Pools are of two kinds. The first regulate the charges for traffic to competitive points. As we have seen, it is the excessive lowering of charges to these points which is a chief public grievance against the railroads, and whatever tends to keep up charges to competitive points must tend to lower charges to other points. These pools, therefore, are a great equalizing force with which we cannot afford to dispense, until the principle of charges proportional to distance is established universally. The other form of pooling is that which controls the output and the carriage of coal. But this is exactly parallel to the arrangements by which other producers restrict their output so as to prevent an overstocking of the market and an abnormal depression of prices. It may do for those who accept cheapness in every shape and form as an unmixed blessing, to treat such pools as an interference with the normal course of trade. But the experience of the last thirteen years should have sufficed to drive that notion of the orthodox economists out of the heads of all observant and thinking men. It is everybody's truest interest that those who serve us should make a reasonable profit out of the service. It is nobody's interest that the great carrying companies should be cutting each other's throats in a ruinous competition for business. That the State should regulate the formation of pools, with a view to securing reasonable terms for the public, is quite true. That it should forbid them absolutely in order to foster unlimited competition between the railroads, is an unreasonable demand.

Such are the evils of unregulated railroad traffic? Will this new Cullom-Reagan bill suffice to correct them? We are satisfied that it will not. It is just as defective and as impotent as are the State laws, although in the opposite direction. They could not touch traffic which crossed State lines; it touches no other traffic than that. They were evaded by sending freight across the line and bringing it back again. It will be evaded by stopping freight at the State line, and making a fresh contract for its transportation across that line. Nothing but a uniform system of regulation for every sort of freight contract under our law will furnish a solution of the problem.

If every State in the Union were to enact exactly the same restrictions upon the railroads as are found in this Cullom-Reagan bill, that would furnish a clumsy but approximate solution of the problem. The true solution will be found only by placing all commerce by the common-carrier under national control. It is not the passage of a law, but the submission of a constitutional amendment to the States, which will constitute the discharge of Congress's duty to the country in this matter.

OUR NATIVE SUGAR PRODUCT.

THE possibility that we may produce our own sugar is an argument against the proposal to repeal or diminish the duty on foreign sugar, in the interest of our exterior trade. Let us consider this possibility for a moment. It relates to four kinds of

sugar-bearing plants—the tropical cane, the sorghum, the beet, and the stalk of Indian corn. Practically and justly considering these, what prospect do they offer us of affording the whole or any large part of our supply?

As to the tropical cane, the facts have already been repeatedly stated in these columns. The product of Louisiana is not only relatively but actually less than thirty years ago. It holds out no promise of growth. As to the sugar beet, whatever may be possible in the future, numerous experiments, some of them very costly, have so far failed to make it a commercial success, in any locality, with the possible exception of California, where a single factory is still struggling to achieve success. It has been tried in ten or a dozen different states, within the last fifteen years, by men anxious not merely for a pecuniary return to themselves, but also for the great national economic results which would follow the creation of an abundant native supply. In California, Prof. E. W. Hilyard believes the climatic and soil conditions so favorable as to make it feasible to produce profitably a very large amount of sugar,—the whole supply of the country, indeed,—but at this time, after years of trial, the product is comparatively but a drop in the bucket. As to sorghum and the stalks of Indian corn, nothing is yet determined. The latter is in the experimental stage altogether, while the attempts to develop the former have been depressed by continual obstacles and the low price of sugar, until one of the most promising and persistent,—that in New Jersey,—has given up the fight. Experiments under the patronage of the Agricultural Bureau of the national government, especially relating to improved processes of securing the saccharine matter, have been lately conducted in Kansas, but with what precise result is not yet announced. Practically, however, the sorghum does not offer the country any definite and dependable part of its sugar supply.

The fact therefore is that for a considerable time to come, a period of years not less than ten, and probably extending to twenty, the sugar outlook of the country is determined. We shall need to buy from other countries the bulk of our supply. Even hoping for the best progress in the success of the California beets and the development of Western sorghum or corn stalks, it can hardly be presumed that their product would more than meet the annual increase in our consumption, and if this be true, we should need at the end of the century to import, as we do now, sugar and molasses valued at over seventy-five millions of dollars.

We do not depreciate the object of developing our native sugar product. On the contrary we desire to be understood as explicitly urging its encouragement by adequate measures of protection. This is a case where the import duty method is not suitable, but where the plan of a bounty is in every way better. Either is in accord with the Protection principle, and either may be used as circumstances require. We are in a situation, now, to offer our sugar market,—such a prize as probably never before was available in the history of international commerce,—to the nations that will give us concessions in return, and to retain, at the same time, enough duty to pay all the bounties our native sugar calls for. We can maintain the tropical cane of Louisiana, and we can bring out whatever there is in the sorghum, corn, and beet experiments, without impairing the efficiency of the plan to build up our exterior trade, and secure markets for our manufactured goods.

VITUS BERING.

THE name of Vitus Jonasos Bering has suffered much neglect, not only in foreign lands but also in his own country and in Russia. In geographical societies his name is mentioned with the greatest reverence, but the general public scarcely know more about him than that he discovered Bering's Strait, which separates America from Asia. It would seem therefore to be high time that his name was rescued from oblivion. It is true that James Cook treated Bering's explorations with just and generous consideration, and thus made up in part for the misconstruction and slight to which his achievements had been subjected in Russia, France and Germany. No modern encyclopædia shows proper apprecia-

tion of his merits, and not even the great Swedish navigator, Nordenskjöld, seems to have studied his enterprising predecessor in North-eastern Asia with much sympathy or thoroughness. In fact historical research seems not to be Nordenskjöld's strong side. We may therefore be glad that Bering's exploits have found a trusty and indefatigable student in Mr. P. Lauridsen, a Danish author of decided ability. Mr. Lauridsen has done a great service to history and geography by the publication of his charming volume: *Vitus Bering og de Russiske Opdagelser fra 1725-43* (Copenhagen, Gyldendalske Boghandel.) He had previously conquered for himself a high place in literature, particularly by his interesting edition of Jens Munk's "Navigatio Septentrionalis." His *Vitus Bering* is a volume easily read, and parts of it are as exciting and fascinating as a romance. It is based on a thorough study of original sources both in Denmark and in Russia. In St. Petersburg Mr. Lauridsen received valuable assistance from Admiral Wesselago, who is the director of the hydrographic department of the Russian admiralty, and who is thoroughly acquainted with the history of the Russian navy. Mr. Lauridsen also got much help from Mr. Aug. Thorman, who is a high authority on Russian palæography. Mr. Thorman interpreted for the author numerous difficult passages in the old Russian documents found in the archives of St. Petersburg. The result is a work written on the one hand with great love and enthusiasm, and on the other with scientific thoroughness. The author brings up and discusses many new and interesting questions, and establishes new results, though possibly his enthusiasm sometimes leads him to decide matters too courageously. The book also shows how vastly Russia is indebted to Denmark and Norway for her fleet. Czar Peter the Great was not pleased with the manner in which the Dutch built ships for him, and he gave orders that the workmen should be superintended by Danes and Englishmen. Next to Czar Peter himself, Danes and Norwegians are entitled to most credit in the foundation of the Russian navy, and the foremost place belongs to Cornelius Cruys from Stavanger, Norway, who was made vice-admiral and became the chief manager of all that pertained to the Russian fleet. Czar Peter bestowed every honor on Cruys, and called him his father. His successor was the Dane Peter Sievers, but among the officers of lower rank we find the Admirals Wilster and Bredal, and such Danes and Norwegians as Trane, Skeving, Herzenberg, Peder Grib, etc.

Bering was born in Horsens in Jutland of poor parents in 1681. In Amsterdam he became acquainted with the above-mentioned Cruys, and at once entered the Russian marine, where he advanced rapidly. In 1724 he was appointed commander of the first Kamtschatka expedition. This was one of Czar Peter's last projects, and in his brief instructions he gave orders that Bering in Kamtschatka or elsewhere should build one or two ships and sail with these along the coast northwest to where America probably begins. European settlements should be looked for and all the results must be recorded on charts. It was a tremendous undertaking. In the first place Bering had to traverse 130 degrees of longitude, that is to say several thousand miles, through the most inclement regions, through almost impenetrable forests, morasses and snow. He had to take with him a provision train, an immense amount of materials for ship-building, and at the same time he had to construct in scores of places rafts for crossing rivers and finally two sea-going ships. The expedition started in Jan. 1725, with Bering as chief commander and the Dane Spangberg as second officer, and it took three years to reach lower Kamtschatka Ostrog, where the journey by sea was to begin. The timber for the ships was brought to the shipyard with the help of dogs; the tar they made themselves; rigging, cables and anchors were brought several thousand miles through almost impassable countries. But the most alarming part of the outfit was the food. On this point we get interesting facts for comparison with our time. When we know how Arctic expeditions in our day are supplied with Liebig's extract of beef, preserved butter, canned fruits, condensed milk and peassausages, it startles us to read that Bering had to content himself with fishoil for butter, with dried fish for beef, that he had to get his salt from the sea, and that he distilled spirits from "sweet straw."

Thus equipped Bering sailed north so far that he was convinced that he had passed the end of the continent. As there was no more coast to the northward, Bering thought it necessary to turn back, since he had accomplished the object of his journey, and he was anxious to get back to Kamtschatka before the end of the summer. The result of his explorations seem to be correctly recorded in a correspondence to a Copenhagen paper for 1730, doubtless from Bering himself, where it is stated that "Bering has found that there really is a Northeast passage, so that out from the Lena river, in case there is no ice to hinder, one may sail to Kamtschatka and thence to Japan, China, and East India." Unfortunately Bering did not establish the fact that the two countries are separated by a narrow strait. His outfit was poor, the

cordage and sails were rotten and the weather was dark and foggy. Captain Cook was more fortunate when he approached the strait. For him the sun scattered the clouds and fog, and both continents lay bathed in sunshine before him. But Cook recognized and lauded the correctness of Bering's observations and geographical annotations, and it is due to his high-mindedness that the strait bears Bering's name. It was Bering's lot to get his discoveries underrated by the scholars of Russia and other lands.

Scarcely had Bering returned in 1730, before his restless mind brought forth plans for new expeditions. The time and circumstances were favorable. Anna Ivanowna had ascended the Russian throne, and with her the foreigners and the reform party of Peter the Great again came to power. She desired to demonstrate to the world Russia's greatness and progressive spirit. But it was Bering who originated the plans for that colossal expedition, the greatest the world has seen in geographical history. By passing through the hands of the senate, admiralty and academy, his project gradually assumed even gigantic dimensions. The expedition was to survey the north coast of the whole old world from Dwina to the Pacific Ocean, explore all the harbors and river outlets along all this coast, describe the country, and study its natural resources, particularly in minerals, and furthermore find America. The chief aim of all these explorations was a nautical-geographical description of the coast of North Siberia; but to this the academy added a demand that all Siberia should be scientifically explored and described, and the report was to embrace astronomical and geodetic, physical, zoological and botanical observations, together with historical and ethnographical investigations in regard to the past migrations, colonizations, etc. Of these latter undertakings two young Germans, J. G. Gomelin and Gerhard Fr. Müller were to be the soul, and over them Bering had no authority. He was merely to provide for their transport from St. Petersburg to Kamtschatka and make lateral journeys possible for them, while he in reference to other journeys and voyages was the chief commander, who was to supply ships and every means of travel. Unfortunately the instructions were defective, and countless burdens were put on Bering's shoulders. His will was chained by being required to consult local authorities, and in many matters even to ask counsel from his subordinates.

This expedition set out Feb. 1, 1733. Spangberg went with a few mechanics and the heaviest equipments direct to Okotsk to take charge of the ship-building. Bering himself went to Tobolsk, whence the first Polar expedition was to start, and where the ship Tobol was launched in May, 1734. Not long afterwards it sailed down the Irtisj. Thereupon Bering transfers his headquarters to Jakutsk, where two ships are built, one of which was to proceed westward from the mouth of the Lena under the command of Lieutenant Prontschitschschef and double the Tajmyr peninsula, while the other, commanded by Lieutenant Lassenius was to sail eastward to Bering's Island and America. Now Bering was able to go to the Pacific where Spangberg had made preparations. But he had more or less opposition, and he was constantly attacked and slandered, and the government in St. Petersburg was suspicious and fault-finding. Is it to be assumed that Bering was not equal to his task? The fact is the expedition was planned on so vast a scale, and the objects to be attained were so varied, that its control transcended human skill. Bering was an honest and pious Christian and upon the whole respected for his great ability, but he was perhaps more humane and magnanimous than such a position permitted a man to be in his time. Still it is a question whether the whole expedition would not have fallen into perils and become impossible in the hands of a hard and cruel despot. The famous naturalist Baer says of Bering, "It seems to me that he on all occasions acted with the greatest discretion and energy, and at the same time with the greatest moderation. The whole enterprise was so monstrous, in its conception, that it would have been ruined and resultless under many another leader."

In the summer of 1738 Spangberg went to Japan and surveyed the Kuril Islands, Jesso, and a part of the east coast of Nipon. Here Mr. Lauridsen again emphasizes the great importance of the expeditions of this navigator, and urges that they have not hitherto received proper recognition. In June 1741, Bering started on his last fatal voyage. He had with him on board his own ship the celebrated German scientist, Steller, who unfortunately did not get on well with the officers, and has published a colored description of the events. After discovering various groups of islands and coasts, the ship stranded on Bering Island near Kamtschatka, many of the crew perished from scurvy, and Bering himself, who had long struggled with the disease, died here in a sand-hole which had been dug. Lauridsen says, "Bering was, so to speak, buried alive. While the sand constantly rolled down upon him from the sides of the pit and covered his feet, he finally

refused to have it removed, inasmuch as it furnished some of the warmth he so much desired. Thus the sand gradually covered him up to the middle of his body, so that his comrades had to exhume him in order to give him a proper burial." This was Dec. 8, 1741. A monument was erected to his memory in Petropoulsk. A picture of it is found in Lauridsen's book. The work is written in a clear, forcible and spirited style. It is full of interest and contains several good maps. A translation into English would, we think, be received with favor.

AN ANGEL UNAWARES.

A LORDLY hall where the dainty dwelt;
No lack they felt,—there was wealth for all.
There, old and young, with a child's delight,
Were making them merry on Christmas night.
Fierce fell the snow, in the street below,
On a wandering child,—with a great surprise
And a wistful look in his timid eyes.

He touched the door and it sprang ajar,—
He had wandered far,—shall he roam no more?
The tapers fluttered,—the children gazed,
And the haughty mother looked on, amazed.
Five lambs in her fold, yet her heart was cold :
She crossed the hearth, with a stern grimace,
And barred the door on that pleading face.

II.

A little cot, where a widow dwelt,
What lack she felt, men heeded not.
While others caroled with merry zest,
She prayed for her babe as he lay at rest.
Her heart was stirred,—and her prayer was heard,—
For before her stood,—was it child or saint,
Hungry and weary, cold and faint?
She trembled at sight of the child forlorn,
Of the child that was born on Christmas night ;
Yet gently she took him in, to share
The wealth of her mother-love and care ;
But,—wondrous plan !—not a child but a man,
Stood there, and his hands were upraised to bless,
With a woman's infinite tenderness.

Then the babe in the cradle moved and smiled ;
And the mother, kneeling beside the child,
Gave thanks to God, she had kissed the rod,
" Peace on earth, Good will toward men,
" Glory to God, Amen, Amen !"

Christmas, 1887.

P. B. PEABODY.

AN AMERICAN REALISTIC NOVEL.¹

MR. HOWELLS may be said to have lived, breathed, and had his whole intellectual being of late in the new world of ideas revealed by the art of Tolstoi and his brethren,—"those simple human masters," as Mr. Howells himself calls them, "who have no conventions but wish simply to be true." He has preached a crusade against whatever is idealistic in conception and insincere in performance: he insists that the novelist shall discard romantic traditions, renounce not only his preference for the beautiful but for the heroic, give up the principle Art for Art's sake, and make his watch-word Life for Life's sake. It is not often that a story-writer's consistency is put to so severe a test as that which these monthly criticisms of Mr. Howells impose upon his own fiction. But his latest book shows very clearly that he has gone to work conscientiously, and faithfully endeavored to carry out his own precepts and exemplify his own creed. He has drawn from life and has adhered with the utmost seriousness to everyday matter-of-fact reality. He has even abstained from showing too humorous a sense of the ludicrous weaknesses and pitiful absurdities of mankind. His hero, for example, is a tremendous prig, and his priggishness deepens and becomes more confirmed with each new experience, yet the author treats him with the most absolute good faith, neither laughing at his greenness, nor describing with irony his various struggles towards better things.

The situation is in itself distinctly humorous. Mr. Sewell, an eloquent Unitarian minister, meets in the country Lemuel Barker, a boy who writes verses and drives his mother's cows, and has gained a local reputation as a genius. Mr. Sewell is an impressionist; his imagination is easily stirred, and he finds material for

¹THE MINISTER'S CHARGE, OR THE APPRENTICESHIP OF LEMUEL BARKER. By William D. Howells. Boston: Ticknor & Co. 1886.

his brilliant and stirring discoveries in the momentary flashes of insight and sympathy gained by coming into contact with something novel and unexpected. He gathers inspiration from the idea that a boy who drives his mother's cow should write poetry, and giving himself up to the feeling of the moment, he addresses flattering phrases to the lad, and urges him to go on in this career.

Mr. Sewell has before now learned from experience that it is at times a difficult matter to be both kind and honest to his fellowmen, and when Lemuel, fired with hope by this praise of his poems, comes up to Boston to find a publisher for them, the minister bitterly repents his momentary weakness. He is obliged to tell the boy that the verses are worthless,—except, that is, as the artless expression of the writer's own impulse towards the good, the beautiful, the true. This decision carries conviction with it. Lemuel is cast down, but not so wholly destroyed but that he gains a lively conviction of Mr. Sewell's faults of character. He resents the minister's offer of patronage, and intends to go back to his mother at once, but is swept away by the whirl of the city maelstrom and finds free action an impossibility. He is cheated out of his money: he is compelled to undergo a variety of ignoble experiences in station-houses and police courts, which the author has drawn from real life, without exaggeration, without trying after humorous or pathetic effects.

Little although Lemuel's difficulties move the reader, they impose the most painful sense of responsibility upon the minister, who feels that he and he alone is at fault. In fact Mr. Sewell's conscience is tender with such noble and lofty sentiments concerning the moral law and the relation of man to man, that the idea of his duty towards Lemuel waylays, haunts and arraigns him. When he preaches his eloquent sermons, Lemuel is always present to his mind, sometimes as a witness, sometimes as an accuser, always as the silent reality by which his own wishes, whether for ill or good, must be judged. In fact so far as the relation between the minister and his charge goes, nothing could be better than Mr. Howells's story: the satire is brilliant: every touch tells, and the author has drawn the picture of a divine whose aesthetical and ethical preaching depends on his momentary intuitions of the truth—without external support in the precepts of a positive religion—with a vigorous hand.

As "The Apprenticeship of Lemuel Barker" however, the story lacks strength and freedom. We try to look at it impartially, conscious that we are all tempted to be unjust to what we are over-familiar with, and what brings us nothing new. The fortunes of a poor young man have always been a favorite theme. Mr. Howells's hero, like other heroes, has a blind instinct for getting into scrapes, which is only equaled by his facility in getting out of them. Lemuel's scrapes show of course none of the traditional clashing of heroic effort with beggarly achievement. Mr. Howells's Jack is no giant-killer, so far as Mr. Howells's intention is concerned. Nevertheless, the chief factor in Lemuel's career is his handsome face. Every woman in the book (except the minister's wife), is a little carried out of her sober judgment by the fact that Lemuel has fine eyes. Can this be Mr. Howells's concession to the public, which he declares still "cries for its Puss-in-Boots and Jack-the-Giant-Killer, and will have them in some form or other," or is it an inadventure?

Lemuel has an unpleasant, nightmarish sort of experience, which neither kindles the reader's enthusiasm nor moves him to disgust. That 'Manda Griers and Statiras, that even fatally attractive rocking-chairs exist and hold out their enticements to young men, nobody can doubt. Still, drawn from real life although Lemuel's experience may be, it is not life. It does not stir a sense in the reader which opens full enjoyments and comprehension to him. It is a faithful and conscientious study of a country boy's career in a strange city, and gives the author a chance for some clever satire of city habits and city ways, city preaching, city charity and city flower missions. Lemuel goes back to the country finally, a wiser if not a better man. It is a story to be read thoughtfully before one makes up one's mind whether as a realistic novel it is successful or a failure. One must not turn away from the picture of real life which it offers, because it is dull, rather petty, and inadequate as an expression of what one finds in life. Still with Russian writers realism is the centre of things from which they develop the whole system of society with the insight both of a poet and of a man of the world.

What lends their work its wonderful significance, is the fact that their knowledge,—down to its minutest details of the life which surrounds them,—is united to an intensity of feeling and a power of expression of the deepest emotion.

WEEKLY NOTES.

LOD TENNYSON'S new poem, "Locksley Hall Sixty Years After," appears in full in this week's issue of the New York *Independent*, having been sent by cable to that journal. There are

one hundred and thirty-five two-line stanzas, and the enterprise of *The Independent* in getting so long a contribution in this way certainly deserves notice. Further than as a piece of enterprise, however, there is little or nothing to be said in favor of the performance. As poetry it might be well enough, were it not, from beginning to end, a pessimistic wail. Since the Tennyson who wrote the earlier *Locksley Hall* has become not only the poet laureate, but a lord, and has drawn more and more closely to the aristocratic order, he sees universal disaster in any change that will disturb that order's luxurious monopoly. In the measured cadences of the poem he describes the processes going on at present,—as he thinks he sees them:

"Chaos, cosmos! Cosmos, chaos! Once again the sickening game,
Freedom free to slay herself, and dying while they shout her name.

"Step by step we gained a freedom known to Europe, known to all;
Step by step we rose to greatness; through the tonguesters we may fall.

"You that woo the voices tell them old Experience is a fool,
Teach your flattered kings that only those who cannot read can rule.

"Pluck the mighty from their seat, but set no meek ones in their place,
Pillory wisdom in your markets, pelt your offal at her face.

"Tumble nature heels o'er head, and, yelling with the yelling street,
Set the feet above the brain, and swear the brain is in the feet.

"Bring the old dark ages back without the faith, without the hope,
Break the State, the Church, the Throne, and roll their ruins down the slope."

ALL this will go to the rubbish heap of Time. A poet, if he ventures upon political themes, can do so only in one way in order to have posterity's reading, and that way is not lamentation over democratic growth and aristocratic decay. The England that groans to-day is Lord Tennyson's ideal, yet she groans because she bears the burden of her own iniquities. Poesy can have no sympathy with the errors that accumulated the load.

* * * * *

THE Germantown Choral Society sang the *Messiah* in St. Vincent Hall on last Tuesday evening, as we announced. In the estimate of highly competent judges, the performance was very good. Mr. Gilchrist had his forces well in hand, and the spirit with which the choruses were executed has not been surpassed by any of our city choral societies. Of course the orchestra was too powerful in the solo part, but that is the mistake made in every rendering of this oratorio, and probably is chargeable in part to Mozart's too vigorous instrumentation of Handel's score. Of the solo singers Dr. Martin of New York received the only encore, his execution of the very difficult air "Why do the people tumultuously rage?" being so admirable as to invite this.

But to our thinking he was the weakest of the four for oratorio singing. His splendid technical execution was not sustained by adequate sympathy with the motive of what he sang. And this was the more notable as the others were in this respect unusually strong. Mr. Auty's rendering of the tenor solos was in every way admirable; Miss Suelke's execution, after she had got past the recitative portions, which do not suit her style, was both effective and sympathetic. And Mrs. Darling gave Germantown reason to be freshly pleased with their favorite contralto. Her rendering of "He shall lead his flock," and "He was despised and rejected of men" impressed us, even in view of the rendering of the same solos by singers of the highest excellence, as notably sympathetic, judicious and effective. Should her voice gain a little in strength with exercise, she will take a high place among the contralto singers of our country.

REVIEWS.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF ROBERT BROWNING'S POETRY. By Hiram Corson, LL. D., Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature in Cornell University. Pp. x. and 338. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.

ROBERT BROWNING'S POETRY. OUTLINE STUDIES published for the Chicago Browning Society. Pp. 50. Chicago: Chas. H. Kerr & Co.

CAN Browning be made intelligible to the common mind? Ten years ago it was assumed that he could not. Jesting illustrations were current to show the entire unintelligibility of much of his most ambitious work, and caricatures of his method were thought to clinch the argument. A few of his shorter poems, such as "A Lost Leader," were thought to be all that was accessible to minds not possessed of some peculiar idiosyncrasy incomprehensible to ordinary persons.

But of late years a different view has begun to prevail. It is admitted that he is not and never will be as easy reading as Tennyson or Longfellow, and that those who regard poetry

merely as the amusement of a leisure hour had better let him alone, and stick to poets whose sense lies more on the surface. At most, they should take up Browning only in some good anthology of his easier poems. But it is contended that there may be legitimate forms of poetry, which become intelligible only after earnest and painstaking study, and that the world's intellectual wealth would be very much less if all our literature of verse were of the kind whose sense is seen at first sight. And as all those who have addressed themselves seriously to the study of Browning, report themselves as having found him repay the trouble he gave them, there has arisen very naturally an ambition to share in their fruitful experience. Hence the rise of Browning Societies on both sides of the Atlantic, and the publication of analyses and discussions of his poems, and the preparation of such manuals as this of Prof. Hiram Corson's.

Prof. Corson is a Browningite of the first era. He owes nothing but encouragement to the new enthusiasm which has gathered around the writings of the Master, whom he recognized as such long before he had begun to attain any general recognition of his masterfulness. Browning has helped him to a deeper sense of the spiritual life present in the older current of English poetry. He finds in him the "sublest asserter of the soul in song," and the noblest example of the spiritual element in our modern verse. He thinks that no greater mistake has been made with regard to him, than to treat him merely as the most intellectual of our poets. He is that, but far more; he is the most spiritual of our poets also. To this fact, we are glad to say, the workers for the spiritual elevation of our own country are beginning to awake. The admirable selection from his works which has been made for the use of the Chautauqua Reading Circle, is based on the recognition of the spiritual element in Browning; and the same fact has been reinforced by a bishop of the M. E. church in an article in *The Christian Advocate*.

Professor Corson very properly begins with a glance backward at earlier English poetry. His first chapter is on "The Spiritual Ebb and Flow exhibited in English Poetry from Chaucer to Tennyson and Browning." It is, we believe, the first study of English literature from that point of view. At least we know of nothing except Mr. Macdonald's "England's Antiphon" with which to compare it. Prof. Corson is broader, truer to life, less technical in his method of criticism; but the coincidence of the two estimates in most cases is notable. Prof. Corson does magnificent justice to Spenser and to Shakespeare, and is not too severe upon the more technically religious but really less spiritual Milton—the mind so nearly destitute of awe. From Milton to Cowper he finds a great blank, unredeemed by the multitude of "sacred poets," who dealt officially with divine things; it is in Cowper, Wordsworth and Coleridge that he finds the renewal of the sacred succession of the spiritual poets, which is continued by Shelley, Keats, Tennyson and Browning. In these two he finds a twofold exemplification of the spiritual force—in Tennyson the love of order and institution, the ideal of humanity as a fusion of the highest in woman with the highest in man, and a faith triumphing by masculine logic and feminine intuition alike over the sceptical drift which was dominant in his youth. In Browning the interest in individuals rather than institutions is elevated to a "doctrine of the regenerating power of exalted personalities," a grasp of spiritual fact and light transcending sense experience, and a consciousness of spiritual realities deeper and more unshaken than Tennyson's at its best. To this we may add, a faith in the purifying power of great passions, in sharp contrast to Tennyson's faith in the purifying power of conventional order.

In his second chapter Prof. Corson discusses the part played by "personality" in Browning's poetry. Into this chapter he might have blended that which follows on "Browning's Obscurity." For just here lies the cause of the difficulty people have with Browning. Everybody can understand Dickens, because Dickens deals with personality on the surface only. He even misinterprets the surface clews to character he has caught by shrewd observation, and makes his characters act most inconsistently with the nature he indicates in some traits. A woman like the second Mrs. Dombey, for instance, never would have acted as he makes her act. Browning is the very opposite of Dickens; it is not the surface but the deep places of human character which are his theme. He recognizes a complexity, a mystery, an unfathomed depth in men, which alone is worthy of his study. All or nearly all his poems are character-studies of this deeper sort, and hence the naturalness with which they fall into the form of dramatic monologues. It is true, as Mr. Corson says, that the liberties our poet takes in the collocation of words, the complexity of constructions, and some of his verbal liberties, are of a nature to increase the difficulty the careless reader finds. But there are poems and passages of his which present none of these minor stumbling-blocks, but of which no reader will make anything until he has acquired the poet's interest in personality, its God-given

mission as a force for the world's regeneration, and its innate intimacy with divine forces.

After an analysis or argument of each poem, comes a careful anthology embracing thirty-three of Mr. Browning's poems, which has been made not on the principle of selecting the most intelligible, but with a view of giving those which will keep the student to a true sense of Mr. Browning's power and insight. Some of these poems—"Abt Vogler" and "Rabbi Ben Ezra" for instance—we always have found difficult. But we believe that with Mr. Corson's aids—notes as well as preliminary analysis—they can be mastered by any earnest student; and certainly few things in literature will so well repay the trouble.

The brief pamphlet published by the Browning Society of Chicago will interest all students of the poet as showing with what zeal his works are studied in the West. The method is to group together poems on related subjects, and to give brief notes as to the occasion and purpose of such as seem to call for this. External history and circumstances rather than analysis of contents is predominant. On pp. 35-40 there is an excellent chronological list of the poems, giving not only the titles but the contents of each volume.

OUR GOVERNMENT. HOW IT GREW, WHAT IT DOES, AND HOW IT DOES IT. By Jesse Macy, A. M., Professor of History and Political Science in Iowa College. Boston: Ginn & Co. 1886.

There is a rapidly growing sentiment that the study of our civil institutions should form a generous part of the historical instruction given our youth, and those who are of that mind will certainly welcome Professor Macy's little book on "Our Government." We regret that we did not have such a book to study in our school days in place of committing to memory passage after passage from Goodrich's History of the United States. Professor Macy's book far excels anything that we are acquainted with of a similar character. Its plan is quite original, and the suggestions at the close of each chapter will be quite helpful to both teacher and pupil. The great merit of the work is that it combines the historical account of the origin of our civil institutions with a lucid explanation of their actual workings. It does not contain any such mischievous and false doctrine as does Nordhoff's *Politics for Young Americans*, which teaches that government is a necessary evil, instead of a necessary good.

The book is divided into six parts of 191 pages, and an appendix containing the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution. Part I. is an historical introduction describing the origin of institutions in Saxon and Norman England, and in the American colonies. After the general introduction, the pupil is ready to study the civil institutions in detail. Where does he begin? Not with the National Government and the Constitution, but with the local institutions that are nearest to him, and first with those he knows most about, the schools; then the highways, care of the poor, taxation, incorporated towns and cities, and choice of public servants. Part III. is on the administration of justice, treating of the ancient system in England, and the present system of courts here. Part IV. on federal executive business, treats of the postal service, money and banks, the Treasury and other departments at Washington.

Part V. on legislation describes law-making in early times and to-day, and points out some of the difficulties in the way of law-making. Part VI. on constitutions contains a chapter on the English constitution, and others on the state and federal constitutions, the increase of federal power, the three branches of government, and political parties. The chapter on political parties might have been improved considerably by giving an account of the origin and growth of political parties in the United States. The author has given us more of his own views in this chapter than in the others, where he has mostly limited himself to a description of the institutions or their history. What he says of third parties is of special interest just now. A third party may be organized for the purpose of displacing one of the old parties. Such a plan is almost sure to fail. We have in our history one notable instance: the Republican party displaced the Whig party. But the circumstances were peculiar. It would be a great waste of political energy to disband all the counties of a state, and then organize new counties in their place. It is likewise a waste of political energy to disband an old party and organize a new party to take its place. There must be peculiar circumstances to justify such a waste. It is not an easy task to make fifty millions of people acquainted with a new organization. What the people need is to learn how to use political parties in such a way as to secure good government. It is better that the party machinery be familiar. It is more likely to be familiar if it is old. Many close observers are of the opinion that the task of restoring healthy political and party life to the South after the Civil War was made much more difficult because of the disbanding of the old Whig party. Had the old organization remained there would have been, after the stress of

war was over, a stronger tendency to divide on the old lines, and to introduce at once that state of political life which has only been reached through a generation of suffering.

We commend this little book to the consideration of teachers who are awakening to the importance of teaching civics.

RHODA FLEMMING. A Story. By George Meredith. Boston: Roberts Bros. 1886.

There are some novels that, with a very smooth and pretty surface, give one an impression of thinness of texture; but Rhoda Flemming is not one of these. It has, as good housekeepers say in judging of muslins, plenty of "body" to it. There is a good handful of the stuff in one's grasp, firm, solid material, with the threads even and firmly drawn. "Rhoda Flemming" is as superior to "Emilia in England," the last of Mr. Meredith's novels noticed in these columns, as if it were the work of another man. The labored, almost uncouth style, and the distorted, exaggerated character-drawing have well-nigh disappeared. There is a touch of Browning now and then in the speech, and in the dramatic presentation of one or two of the scenes; but the whole book is full of warmth and life and action; the story, with a slight pause in the middle, interesting throughout, and is not spun out to undue length. Some of the characters are vividly distinct, and almost all have life and individuality, if one or two are somewhat incomplete. The first part of the story is quite idyllic and very charming, with the picture of the old "Queen Anne Farm" in the midst of the blooming Kentish landscape; the thrifty mistress, the glowing flower-garden, and the two handsome daughters who "carried erect shoulders, like creatures not ashamed of showing a merely animal pride, which is never quite apart from the pride of developed beauty." But a shadow soon comes over this sunny landscape, when Dahlia, the beautiful elder sister, goes to London and loves and trusts her lover too well, and brings shame to her father, and locks the heart of Rhoda, the younger, in iron bands which seem to hold her whole nature rigid till she has found, and as she thinks righted, her beloved sister.

Mr. Meredith is impatient of the tame and commonplace in incidents and characters. He cannot subdue his voice to the regulated, well-bred monotone of conventional speech; or, to borrow an illustrative from decorative art, his hand is too rough and quick and bold for the skilful low-relief that Mr. Norris and Mr. Henry James employ so cleverly and successfully; so that Mr. Meredith's best and truest characters are not his fine ladies and gentlemen, but the men and women whose character and actions have been less moulded and regulated by tradition. His rural figures are delightful. The imperturbable "Mas' Gammon," with his mechanical appetite for dumplings, is equal to some of Mr. Hardy's impenetrable rustics. Mr. Meredith delights in fools and their folly, and Algernon Blanche, a well-developed specimen of the class, receives ample justice at his hands. Mrs. Lovell is enigmatic, and not very solid. In the first part, both in appearance and attributed character, she suggests Hilda Turner in Mr. Norris's recent story, "My Friend Jim," though Mr. Norris does not need to get suggestions of his characters from any one. But Rhoda is the best drawn figure in the book. Her strong and restrained nature has become over-concentrated in her isolated life. Her pride has grown fierce, her tenderness hard, and her vision narrow. Her obstinacy at last shatters her poor sister's returning gleam of long-deferred happiness. The knowledge that she too had been mistaken and had something to repent of is the solvent that at length melts the proud nature; and we have at last a glimpse of her tamed and softened, in the keeping of the lover that had deserved her so well. Rhoda Flemming explains and justifies the hold which Mr. Meredith has upon a portion of the public. It is only unfortunate that his works should be so uneven.

AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

THE Duke of Argyle's book on the Land War is nearly ready; it will bear the title "Scotland as It Was and as It Is."— "Suggestive Lessons in Language and Reading," by Anna B. Badlam, is in the hands of D. C. Heath & Co.— "Cebes' Tablet," edited by Prof. Richard Parsons of Wesleyan University, is announced by Ginn & Co.— The "Unabridged Webster" has had added to it a pronouncing Gazetteer, occupying 100 pages—a large book in itself,— and containing over 25,000 titles.

The author of "John Halifax," after a long silence, has prepared a volume "About Money and Other Things." It will be published at once by Macmillan & Co.— Karl Kron's "Ten Thousand Miles on a Bicycle," published by the author, University Building, New York, will be ready in January.— Mr. Swinburne's attack on the *Quarterly Review* is assuming the proportion of a good-sized volume, and will not be ready for some time yet.

It will be pleasant news to many readers to learn that Mr. H. Rider Haggard (unfortunate name!) is writing a sequel to his

powerful story, "King Solomon's Mines." How this is to be managed we do not precisely see, considering the fact that "King Solomon's Mines" was about as effectually finished as a story could be. Perhaps the announcement should read that the new book is to be a companion story to the other. It will bear the title, "Allan Quartermain."

A current literary incident in England of high interest is the publication of "The Life of Shelley" by Professor Edward Dowden, issued by Messrs. Kegan Paul & Co. Professor Dowden has been able to profit not only by the labors of his predecessors in the same field, but by the private papers in possession of the Shelley family, to which he has been allowed free access, and of which he has been permitted to make free use. Much other fresh matter has been supplied to and discovered by him, and the result is a work which will be accepted as the standard biography of the poet.

Tennyson's new book of poems, "Locksley Hall Sixty Years After," was published in London on the 14th inst. It contains the three-act play, "The Promise of May," produced in London some years ago. The greatest interest in the volume centres in "Locksley Hall," in which the poet reviews the life of mankind during the past sixty years, and comes to the conclusion that its boasted progress is of doubtful credit to the world in general and to England in particular. A cynical vein of denunciation of democratic opinions and aspirations runs throughout the poem, in marked contrast with the spirit of the "Locksley Hall" of the poet's youth. The New York *Independent* has had the enterprise to have the New Locksley Hall cabled to it entire, nearly 400 lines, in the neighborhood of 5000 words. The incident may be called unique.

Messrs. Harper Bros. filed suit in the U. S. Court, of Louisville, Ky., on the 14th inst., against the Franklin Square Library Company, a Louisville corporation, asking for \$10,000 damages, and that an account of profits be rendered and turned over to them. A perpetual injunction is also issued against the corporation printing the words "Franklin Square Library" on their publications. The Harpers claim an infringement on their trade-mark.

Miss Rose Cleveland begins a novel in the January number of *Godey's Lady's Book*.—The author of a recently published children's book, "Madame Tabby's Establishment," is a daughter of Mr. Thomas ("Tom Brown") Hughes.—The Sixth Congress of the Society of French Teachers is to be held in the second week of January. It will be a double gathering, one to meet in London, the other at Oxford. M. Waddington will preside over the London gathering.—The deaths are announced of Prof. Eugene Rambert of Lausanne, author of a work on the Swiss Alps, and of Leopold Kompert, writer of various collections of popular German tales.

Professor Pliny Earle Chase, of Haverford College, whose death has just been announced, was one of the most accomplished linguists in the country. He could readily converse in eight different languages, and he could with little difficulty read and write a hundred more. But he did not give all his attention to philology. He excelled as a scientist, and received the Magellan medal for a scholarly paper on magnetism and gravity. He was one of the Board of Bible Revisers whose labors were recently completed.

J. T. Wheelwright of Boston, one of the authors of "The King's Men," has written a novel which is soon to be published.—Sir James Stephen's projected Life of Carlyle for the "English Men of Letters" has apparently been abandoned.—M. Gustave Larroumet has collected the articles written by him on Moliere and his troupe, under the title "La Comédie de Molière."

It is reported that Cardinal Newman is engaged upon an autobiographical book.—It is stated also that Herbert Spencer is writing his autobiography.—There is an increasing French demand for English and German philosophical works. Translations are in press in Paris of Spencer's "Principles of Sociology" and of Preyer's "Die Seele des Kindes."—A work concerning Prince Alexander of Bulgaria, by Pastor Koch, the Prince's chaplain, is to be published in Berlin.

Dr. Birbeck Hill has been compiling a very voluminous index to his edition of Boswell's "Johnson."—Mr. Bartholomew's "Gazetteer of the British Isles," which has been many years in preparation, is to be published in monthly parts, beginning in January, by Messrs. Adam & Charles Black, London.—"The Hayward Letters," which are about ready, are expected to make a sensation in England. The editor, Mr. H. E. Carlisle, has done little but bracket the letters together with a few words, wisely leaving the letters themselves to tell the story.

It is stated that Mr. Gladstone is at work on a book dealing with the Homeric religion.—G. P. Putnam's Sons have in press an historical monograph by Lieutenant Seaton Schroeder entitled "The Fall of Maximilian's Empire as seen from a United States Gun-boat."—Little, Brown & Co. have just ready "A Nomen-

clature of Colors for Naturalists," by Robert Ridgway.—The first shilling number of the new edition of a'Becket's "Comic Blackstone," a famous book in its day, has just appeared in London, with profuse illustrations by Mr. Harry Furniss.

The success in America of Part I. of the "Buchholz Family" has encouraged the publishers, Charles Scribner's Sons, to undertake the publication of Part II., which is now in press. Two more volumes are included in the original series, "The Buchholzes in Italy," and "The Buchholz Family in Switzerland." The American publication of these two latter books of the series will depend upon the recognition accorded Part II. It is important to state that the book recently published under the title "The Buchholz Family in Paris" was not written by Julius Stinde, but proves to be the work of an imitator.

Messrs. Harper & Brothers will publish in a few days a new book by the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman." It is a collection of short stories and papers written at various times, now given to the public by the request of friends of Mrs. Craik under the title "About Money and Other Things." The same firm also issue immediately a work by Mr. B. C. Skottowe, of the New College, Oxford. It is "A Short History of Parliament," written, Mr. Skottowe explains, in the hope of imparting a certain amount of life to the dry bones which are strewn in the way of the constitutional student, and of combining instruction with a certain amount of amusement.

Messrs. D. Lothrop & Co., Boston, publish during the present week "Faith and Action," from F. D. Maurice, with an introduction by Phillips Brooks; "Common Sense Science," by Grant Allen; "A Story Book of Science," by Lydia Hoyt Farmer, and "Perry's Saints," a regimental war history, by Col. James M. Nichols.

Rev. J. M. Buckley, the well-known Methodist editor and leader, has a new volume of travels in press (D. Lothrop & Co.) entitled "The Midnight Sun, The Tsar and The Nihilist."

PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

THE arrangements for turning the *Westminster Review* into a joint stock company have been completed by Dr. John Chapman, its former editor and proprietor, and beginning with the April number the *Westminster* will appear as a monthly magazine.—*The British Quarterly Review* is dead, but a new magazine is to rise from its ashes, with the help of the *Congregationalist*. The two are to be merged, widened in scope, and published by T. Fisher Unwin as a monthly, under the title *The Congregational Review*. Mr. Guinness Rogers will be the editor.

Harper's Magazine for January furnishes a generous instalment of the attractions promised in its prospectus for the coming year. Especially notable are the first part of Sir Edward Reed's "Continental Navies," the commencement of the series of Southern articles in Charles Dudley Warner's "New Orleans," Millet's "Summer Campaign with the Cossacks," starting the series of Eastern Papers, and the initial instalment of Kathleen O'Meara's Russian novel, "Narka." Besides these special features the number contains a double instalment of Blackmore's "Springhaven," the continuation of Roe's "Home Acre," and a capital story by R. M. Johnston.

The New Year's *Wide Awake* will have a long and readable Christmas story by Sarah O. Jewett, entitled "The Christmas Guest." To the same issue Henry Bacon makes a quaint contribution to history in an article under the title "The Doves of the French Revolution." He accompanies the article with a full-page picture.

ART NOTES.

MR. CALDER'S model of the Penn statue for the top of the Public Buildings tower is finished and on exhibition at the sculptor's studio. The figure is to be 36 feet high, and when it is set up, Philadelphia will enjoy the honor of having a statue at the elevation of 535 feet, "the highest in the world."

The face has been carefully studied from the best portraits of William Penn, and the costume has been reproduced as closely as possible from minute descriptions prepared under the direction of the Historical Society. The result is a very satisfactory statue, realizing the best ideals of the founder of this commonwealth, characterized by breadth and dignity of conception, and by thorough command of the sculptor's resources in execution. It is a noble work, and will aid in extending Mr. Calder's fame as an artist.

The fact remains to be considered that notwithstanding the figure's great size, it cannot be seen when raised to the position for which it is intended, except by the aid of a good spy-glass. At the elevation of 535 feet above the ground, it will be barely evi-

dent to ordinary observation that the figure is that of a man, and as to all the details of the work on which Mr. Calder has expended years of faithful labor, the statue might as well be buried 535 feet in the ground so far as any sight of the work by unaided human vision is concerned.

The same may be said of the groups of statuary at the corners and centres of the square cornice. At the distance of 385 feet from the ground it will be impossible to make out what they are. The figures might as well all be alike, as measure of economy, and the various emblems that are to represent Commerce, Industry, Agriculture, etc., could be cast in the same mould. No one will ever know what they are or what they stand for except by climbing out onto the cornice and examining each group separately. However, we have done a good many bizarre things on this municipal monument, from the beginning, and it is probably useless to look for anything else to the end.

The Philadelphia committee of artists to act as jury for the American Exhibition in London has finally been made up. The committee consists of three members, Mr. Rothermel, Mr. Craig, and Mr. Peter Moran. The selection is judicious and ought to prove satisfactory to the painters. Mr. Rothermel may be regarded as the representative of the figure painters, Mr. Craig is one of the first of our landscapists, and Mr. Moran, while successful with the figure and in landscape, is also a distinguished animal painter, and at the same time occupies a high position among the etching fraternity. Due notice will be given of the time and place for necessary contributions intended for the exhibition, by Mr. John Sartain, who is chief of the Art Department of the exhibition and ex-officio a member of the committee.

Mr. Sartain is in New York at present writing in consultation with the artists respecting the appointment of a committee for that city. Mr. Albert Bierstadt will probably be the chairman, with two coadjutors not determined at last advices.

There has been some complaint in New York that some of the artists have received circulars of the American Exhibition in London and some have not, and inquiry has been made as to whether favoritism is to be shown. Mr. Sartain states that the only reason why circulars have not been sent to everybody is that it has been impossible to obtain addresses. After taking great pains to obtain addresses, the circulars have in several instances been returned endorsed "not found." Any artist wanting the exhibition circulars will receive the same by return mail on sending his address to Mr. John Sartain, American Exhibition, No. 702 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

The Hanging Committee for the Spring Exhibition of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts will consist of Mr. Thomas Hovenden, Mr. Geo. C. Lambdin, Miss Cecilia E. Beaux, Miss Emily Sartain and Mr. Geo. Frank Stephens. It is said the exhibition will be held next March, though if that is to be the date, the circulars should have been out before this time.

The descriptive portion of the sumptuous "Book of the Tile Club," introduces mysterious figures, the "Puritan," the "Owl," the "Bishop," the "Griffin," the "Eagle," "Sirius," the "Pagan," etc., but these nicknames veil persons who are everywhere recognized as leading American artists, who are admirably represented in this work by phototypes of their own most characteristic pictures.

Artists and art lovers will find something worth reading in the short sketch of the Impressionist Painters in Paris, by Theodore Child, the Parisian art critic, in *Harper's Magazine* for January. Mr. Child traces the rise of this school, and indicates the most striking characteristics of their work.

The Academy has received a very valuable addition to its collection of pictures by American artists from Mr. Edward S. Clarke, who has presented a picture by Joseph Wright of himself and his family. This artist was a native of New Jersey and a son of Patience Wright, the celebrated modeler in wax. In 1784 Wright painted a portrait of Washington from life, which the general presented to Mrs. Powell of this city. It is now at Newport in possession of her descendant, Samuel Powell. Subsequently Wright etched a profile portrait of Washington, which is believed to be the first portrait etched in America. He died of yellow fever in Philadelphia, 1793.

A special exhibition was opened in Boston this week of the summer's work of Messrs. W. L. Picknell, Bolton Jones and Frank Jones. The trio, with Thomas Hovenden, spent part of the summer at Annisquam on Cape Ann, and the rich store of nature they found there is illustrated in this exhibition by pictures studied and finished on the spot. The Boston artists are enthusiastic in their praise of the work, especially that of Mr. Bolton Jones, which they assign to the highest walk of landscape art.

Caroline W. Hall, daughter of the well-known Boston architect, John R. Hall, was awarded a medal at the recent distribution of prizes at the Academy of Fine Arts in Milan, Italy. She was

one of the four fortunate contestants in the school of landscape painting. Her subject was a part of the grounds surrounding the home of the great Leonardo da Vinci.

THE WRITINGS OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON.¹

THE student of history feels, then, as he studies the works of the men who were busied with the birth and childhood of our republic, that he is among great statesmen. They were so. The fact is beyond a question. They were men of large ability, generously developed by the rare responsibilities of the formative era in a country too young and too poor to have nourished selfishness; they were substantially honest; they were, for men in public life, exceptionally disinterested; they generally had honorable purposes and high aims. One has only to read their writings to be convinced upon these points. These writings, indeed, it may be supposed, are read much less than they ought to be; for in their respective sets of eight, ten, or a dozen clumsy octavos they look far from alluring. Yet, seriously, a large part of them will very well bear reading. Especially is this true of the Hamilton volumes and those of Jefferson. Beyond question Hamilton's are the most broadly valuable. We may read the others in order to gain a knowledge of the history of the times; we may read his not only for this purpose, but also to gather knowledge useful in all ages so long as modern civilization and modern habits of polity and of business shall endure. A large proportion of his public papers bear upon questions of finance, internal taxation, tariff, protection, encouragement of manufactures, commerce, national banking, a multitude of subjects no less important to-day than when they were freshly written; and these topics cannot now be discussed in satisfactory shape by any one of our publicists unless he is familiar with all that Hamilton had to say on the subject in hand. What Hamilton did say is liable to be undervalued now, because it will seem to many persons trite and familiar. So it is; for no small part of what he taught has entered into and informed the views of the American people upon matters of public policy; and such a criticism would be like that of the gentleman who went to see Hamlet played, and came away remarking that Shakespeare was a fellow of no originality, for the whole play was only a string of quotations.

The Tables of Contents in these eight volumes may rattle dryly on the ear, but the perusal of the pages themselves will be found surprisingly agreeable, even by the "general reader" who shall have the enterprise to undertake it. For those who do so Hamilton possesses one great advantage; he wrote admirable English, and had a style which is read with ease and pleasure. In this he excelled his contemporaries. Washington, if one could wish to speak unkindly of him, would narrowly escape being called illiterate; if we do not sneer at what he wrote, it is out of our great respect for what he did, and because he had the help of other men's pens in his lifetime, supplemented by the aid of very loyal and helpful editors and biographers since his death. Adams, when writing what he did not expect to publish, wrote like a plain man of sense, and readably enough; but no human being can now force a way through the stilted dulness and stale erudition of the lucubrations which he designed for the enlightenment of his much-to-be-pitied readers in his own generation. Jefferson is very agreeable, and more modern in some respects than were his contemporaries; yet he inundates his subject with such a torrent of words as deprives us of the pleasure to be derived from confidence in the accuracy of his statement or the soundness of his thinking. Madison, less open to direct criticism, is dry and tedious. But Hamilton is read with rapidity and pleasure. His style is vigorous and masculine, and but little defaced by the tiresome elaboration and prolixity of the day. The singular clearness of his mind illumines his language; he neither wastes words nor leaves anything obscure. Many of his papers deserve study on rhetorical grounds, as examples of exposition and argument. He furnishes some of the finest specimens in existence of that most effective of all the forms of argument, the argument through statement. After he has arrayed his facts he seems to have left nothing further to be done; his mere statement of his position often embodies both its explanation and its defense. It was this faculty which made it impossible for Hamilton's opponents, numerous and industrious as they were, to prevail against the schemes which he proposed to Congress. He had such a way of enlisting reason in his service that discussion seemed superfluous. Perhaps it may be said that his arguments came disguised in the clothing of facts. In logic, in rhetoric, or in controversy, there is no higher art, no more formidable skill. It is a curious as well as a very useful and instructive study to compare his papers, in this especial point of view, with the documents of the other side, notably with those prepared, certainly with no slight eloquence and plausibility, by his arch opponent, Jefferson. Hamilton forces conviction to-day as he did in his own time.

Probably the student of Hamilton's writings will regard it as a fair judgment rather than an outgrowth of partiality to set him at the head of all statesmen of the United States, and among the few the very greatest of the world. He had a native aptitude for the problems of statesmanship; it was the kind of work which his mind was created to do. By way of furnishing a scale to measure this, it may be said that it involved, as one department or faculty only among many, such a capacity for constitutional law that in this respect Marshall did not surpass him, though Marshall left a monumental reputation reared upon this sole basis. One has the consciousness of strength, of power, in his way of thinking; his brain seems to work in an atmosphere so clear that every fact and every argument must stand out in sharply cut outlines; there can be no distortion, neither any error in perspective, in relationship or proportion, where all is pure lucidity. There is also extraordinary grasp and breadth,—nothing is so remote as to escape just appreciation; there is fulness of knowledge which makes contradiction hopeless, and with this there comes as a detail a singular accuracy of information extending to every minute part of the business. He never seems ingenious or subtle, never surprises the reader by bringing him to an unexpected conclusion through by-roads. He is seen always to travel along the straight turnpike. What escape then remains from implicit confidence in the result? Such was and still is the state of mind in which Hamilton leaves his reader.

¹From *The Atlantic Monthly* for January.

SENATOR ALDRICH'S VIEWS ON THE SUGAR QUESTION.¹

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Senator Aldrich was seen to-night in relation to his resolution presented to-day requesting the President to enter into negotiations with the governments of the sugar-producing countries with a view to securing mutual agreements by which the United States shall agree to admit sugar free, providing important concessions are made to this country for the admission of our products.

"What ground do you propose to take in regard to the sugar question, Senator?" he was asked.

"Simply this; I believe in the principles of Protection, but we should carry out these principles at the least cost to the community. This year we produced about 8 per cent. of the sugar we consumed. It would be, therefore, much cheaper to pay a bounty, as the home production could not have the same effect in reducing the cost to the consumer as in industries where 90 and 95 per cent. of the production was produced at home."

"Are there not many obstacles in the way of paying a bounty?"

"I fail to see them. Germany manages this matter very well, and I shall be prepared to show how it can be done when the time comes."

"I see you believe with Senator Frye, that sugar can be used in securing the South American trade?"

"Yes, you see, we made a mistake in taking the duty off tobacco without having mutual arrangements with Brazil that would have prevented their putting on an export duty. We don't want to make another mistake of that kind, and hence my resolution."

"Would you favor a duty on refined sugar?"

"Most decidedly. A duty on refined sugar and a bounty for every pound of sugar we produce in this country, whether from the sugar cane, beet root, sorghum or corn. This would stimulate the home trade, relieve us of surplus revenue, and open up markets for American goods in South America."

DRIFT.

—Again the wail of the mugwump pervades the air because of another departure of the reform administration from the straight path of civil service rectitude. The lamentations over the Benton-Stone affair have not ceased before this new grief comes. "One woe treads on another's heel, so fast they follow." This time the esteemed *New York Evening Post* is chief mourner, and the victim is Mr. Coombs of Maryland, one of the four general appraisers of merchandise on the Atlantic coast. His removal without cause, and the appointment of a "political henchman" in his place, strikes the *Post* as "very nearly the worst offence chargeable against President Cleveland's administration." The position of appraiser is one of great importance, requiring both integrity and experience. These qualities Mr. Coombs is admitted to possess. But his faithful service of years was rewarded by a summary removal. And what makes it worse in the eyes of the *Post* is that the removal was in the nature of a trick, the resignation being suddenly called for just before congress met in order to evade the provisions of the tenure of office act.—*Hartford Courant*.

—The introduction of the electric light into the historic Temple church (London) moves one worshiper to write a letter of complaint to the *Pall Mall Gazette*. Once, he says, he could spend an hour there of a Sunday afternoon, "while the shadows gather aloft and blot out, one by one, the winged horses and cross-bearing lambs in the ivory-tinted vaults, while the mellow colors fade out of the windows, and the soft shining of the yellow candle-light fills the lower air with golden radiance." Now all is changed. "In the one place where London fog and gloom and darkness were apotheosized, and took on all that they are capable of picturesqueness and symbolic charm, they are expelled forever. No more gathering shadows in the beautiful roof. No more golden candle-lights shining like jewels as they used when we always turned to take a backward look from the old round porch. Well—'So sleep the lights of other day.'"

—We hear from Cambridge (Mass.) that there is more apparent "religious interest" among the Harvard undergraduates this season than for many years past, and that the Plummer professor and the preachers to the university are much encouraged. While it is admitted that Brother Moody's recent visit helped to bring about this gratifying state of things, they are disposed to give a large share of the credit to the new departure of the authorities in making religion (at least the outward manifestation of it in chapel-going, etc.) an "elective."

—The Guinness Brewery, in Dublin, has recently been converted into a stock company. While the colossal size of this business is notorious, few will realize the amount of money that would be put into the stock of the new company. The subscriptions for stock were received by Baring Bros. The scene at their office is described as little short of a riot. Men literally fought to get near the counter. Prospectuses sold freely at half a crown and three shillings apiece. The stock was divided into three classes—ordinary, preferred, and debenture—the premiums on which at this sale ranged from 67 down to 18 per cent. The capitalization had been fixed at £6,000,000. On this sale the market value rose to £8,610,000, or about \$40,000,000. The actual value of the stock and fixtures, beer on hand, manufacturing plant, and real estate was estimated at £2,500,000, showing a public estimation of the value of the "good will" at over £6,000,000, or nearly \$30,000,000. It is said that over one hundred millions of pounds sterling of capital were offered to Baring Bros. The last statement, however, is pronounced open to doubts.

¹Special dispatch to the *Philadelphia Press*.

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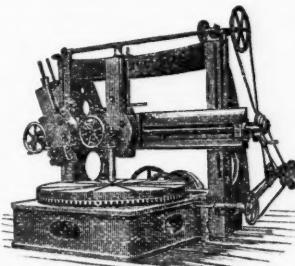
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Enclosed find I am inquiring with myself what papers I can spare my poor eyes the pain, (or pleasure?) of reading, and cannot put THE AMERICAN on the list. Its "Review of the Week" is the best that I see. M. K. C.

From New York (State):

I deem THE AMERICAN one of the best, if not the best, of the secular papers that come to me. Certainly there is not one that I read with more satisfaction and profit. I am happy to show it to my friends, and commend it. J. B. W.

From North Carolina:

I have received THE AMERICAN during the last year, and have read each issue as soon after it was in hand as my engagements would allow. . . . I have found it interesting and instructive in every issue. R. T. B.

From a Member of the U. S. Senate:

I find nearly always something profitable for me to read in each number.

From an American in Europe:

I never lay down the number of THE AMERICAN without thinking I will write to say what a good paper I think it is. I have just read in it a most sensible article on the Silver Question. It is sometimes too Pennsylvania in its views both of Tariff and Currency for a New Englander like myself, but in the main there is no paper which I read with so general assent and satisfaction.

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